U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: August 16, 1991

SUBJECT: Nelson Galvanizing Inc., Queens, New York

FROM: Paul L. Kahn, On-Scene Coordinator, USEPA Region II, Response and Prevention Branch

TO:

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POLREP NO.: POLREP 2

I. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	6Z
Delivery Order No.:	N/A
Response Authority:	CERCLA
ERNS No.:	N/A
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
State Notification:	NYSDEC notified
Action Memorandum Status:	Completed
Start Date:	February 12, 1991
Demobilization Date:	N/A
Completion Date:	N/A

II. SITE INFORMATION

Nelson Galvanizing, Inc. (NGI) is located at 11-02 Broadway, Queens, New York. The site is an active production facility involved in custom hot-dip galvanizing. The site is a two-story building located in a densely populated commercial, residential, and light industrial area. NGI has operated its galvanizing process at this site since approximately 1967.

Approximately 10,000 to 15,000 gallons of corrosive acids and caustics are stored on site in open-head drums and large dip tanks. Tons of contaminated soils and debris are also stored on the premises. Standing puddles of acidic liquids are throughout the facility and are believed to be leaking into the environment. Refer to POLREP #1 for more detailed site information.

B. Situation

1. Current Situation

The galvanizing process involves the precleaning of base metal in either sulfuric acid or sodium hydroxide to remove dirt, rust and other surface contamination. The cleaned metal is dipped into zinc ammonium chloride, which acts as a surface conditioner. The parts are then dipped into a tank of molten zinc (temperature approximately 800° F). After immersion in the molten zinc, the parts are removed and allowed to cool. NGI is a job-shop business, i.e., it does not have a dedicated production line, but instead processes parts made by others on a piece-work basis.

2. Removal Actions to Date

TAT conducted site visits to NGI twice each week from April 24, 1991 to July 17, 1991. At that time it was decided to reduce site visits to once each week because of reduced site activity. Site inspections are to ensure all health and safety protocols are followed, and that site work is performed as outlined in the M&E work plan. A summary of the removal action for the last nine weeks is provided below:

Week of June 3-7, 1991 - The contents of the ferrous sulfate (salt) tank along the south wall was transfered into the rolloffs. Not all material was bulked since both salt rolloffs became filled. On June 6, a 22-cubic yard rolloff was delivered to the site to be used for bulking the previously-excavated soil (PES).

Week of June 10-14, 1991 - The rolloff for the PES was filled. A composite sample of the soil was collected by M&E and submitted for full TCLP analysis.

Week of June 17-21, 1991 - Only one M&E employee was on site. The only work performed this week was the staging of PES drums from the front of the facility to the rear staging area.

Week of June 24-28, 1991 - No work was performed at the site. Bulking of wastes could not continue until the three rolloffs (two salt, one PES) were shipped off site. No space was available to accommodate more rolloffs.

D. Key Issues

Shipping delays for the salt wastes have slowed site cleanup. On June 24, 1991, TAT contacted Jersey Miniere Zinc Company, the facility originally scheduled to receive the salt, to determine the cause of the shipping delay. TAT was informed that Jersey Miniere would only use NGI's material when their regular suppliers of ferrous sulfate could not provide the material. Therefore, Jersey Miniere could not guarantee if and when NGI's material would be accepted. EPA subsequently informed NGI that due to the uncertainty of the original plan to ship the salt to Jersey Miniere, additional recycling/disposal options must be researched. It was at this time that NGI arranged for disposal of the material at Athens Hocking and Envirite.

The deteriorated condition of the NGI facility has also served to slow bulking operations. The hoist used to transport drums to the bulking area is frequently out of service during periods of rain and high humidity. The numerous holes in the roof allow rain to enter and short circuit the hoist. The hoist has no brake and is stopped by putting it in reverse. This action sometimes causes the shear pin to snap, resulting in futher shutdowns of the hoist. The deteriorated roof has allowed rain to pass into the facility over the years and accumulate in the drums of salt which were stored uncovered. This has necessitated pumping off the liquids in the drums prior to bulking.

IV. COST INFORMATION

Since the NGI removal action is funded by the responsible party, only EPA and TAT costs are tracked in this report.

	Cost To Date
EPA Salary/Travel Costs as of 8/16/91	
(EPA costs are to be determined, and will be included in the next POLREP.)	
TAT Salary/Travel Costs as of 8/16/91	$ 12,000
Total Costs	$ **,***